

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/084,322

Applicant(s)

MINAGAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Kimbhinh T. Nguyen

Art Unit

2671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed 01/28/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-8,10-15 and 17-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/28/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/18/05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 01/28/05 was filed after the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance on 11/12/04. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Alan M. Lenkin on 03/18/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including at least one frame on each page, which frame comprises a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, wherein the apparatus uses image data, including the balloon portion and the frame image, and text data indicating words in order to display words based on the text data in

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the balloon portion; and wherein the electronic comic is displayed in a skimming mode and in a careful reading mode, the careful reading mode showing the comic frame by frame on the screen by zooming-in each frame sequentially.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) An electronic comic viewing method for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including at least one frame on each page, which frame comprises a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, comprising: storing the balloon portion and the frame image as image data; storing words to be displayed in the balloon portion as text data separately from the image data; displaying words based on the text data in the balloon portion; providing a careful reading mode and skimming mode and displaying the electronic comic frame by frame on the screen by zooming-in each frame sequentially while in the careful reading mode.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) A recording medium on which is recorded a program for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including at least one frame on each page, which frame comprises a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, the program comprising: a word displaying code segment that uses image data including the balloon portion and the frame image and text data indicating words in order to display words based on the text data in the balloon portion; a mode code segment that provides a careful reading mode and a skimming mode; and a comic displaying code segment that displays the electronic comic frame by frame on the screen by zooming-in each frame sequentially.

Reasons for Allowance

3. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-24 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 8 and 15, the prior art does not teach an electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including at least one frame on each page, which frame comprises a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, wherein the apparatus uses image data, including the balloon portion and the frame image, and text data indicating words in order to display words based on the text data in the balloon portion; and wherein the electronic comic is displayed in a skimming mode and in a careful reading mode, the careful reading mode showing the comic frame by frame on the screen by zooming-in each frame sequentially.

Claims 3, 10 and 17, the prior art does not teach an electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, comprising a careful reading mode and a skimming mode, the skimming mode displaying frames on one page, and performing either fade-in processing or fade-out processing on a predetermined frame of the displayed frames.

Claims 5, 12 and 19, the prior art does not teach an electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a

plurality of frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, comprising a careful reading mode and a skimming mode, the skimming mode displaying words part by part within the balloon portion in a predetermined order.

Claims 6, 13 and 20, the prior art does not teach an electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, comprising a careful reading mode and a skimming mode, the skimming mode displaying on one page, and sequentially displaying frames including words in the balloon portion and performing either fade-in or fade-out on the displayed words.

Claims 7, 14 and 21, the prior art does not teach an electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, comprising a careful reading mode and a skimming mode, the skimming mode displaying on one page, and sequentially displaying words in a predetermined frame of the displayed frames in a predetermined frame order.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

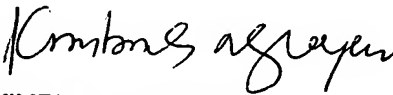
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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimbinh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7644. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Zimmerman, can be reached at (571) 272-7653. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 18, 2005


KIMBINH T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER